

MARY DRANGA CAMPBELL

The History of the Pennsylvania  
Association for the Blind

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# The History of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind

by

Mary Dranga Campbell, Executive Director,  
Pennsylvania State Council for the Blind



1910 - 1929

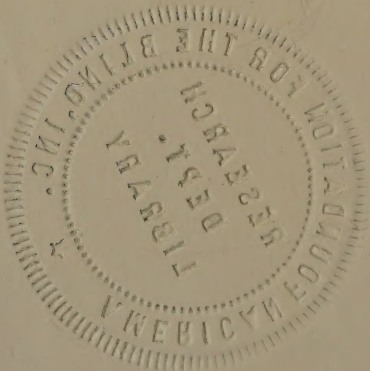


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# **The History of the Pennsylvania Association For the Blind**

*by*

**Mary Dranga Campbell, Executive Director,  
Pennsylvania State Council for the Blind**

The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, with headquarters at 434-436 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, established in 1910 through the activities of the Women's Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, is today carrying on State-wide work for the blind and the prevention of blindness with branches at Pittsburgh, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Lancaster, Oil City, Altoona, Johnstown, Beaver, Allentown and Bethlehem.

Although the education of blind youth began in America about one hundred years ago, the first state-wide effort to prevent unnecessary blindness and alleviate the condition of the adult blind was the organization by the Woman's Industrial Union of Boston, of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind in Boston in 1903 and which resulted in the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind in 1906. New York followed with a State Commission for the Blind the same year and Ohio in 1908 and thus state-wide work for the adult blind spread.

There were a few scattered workshops prior to this, but the training or employment of the adult blind, where any existed, was for the most part carried on in conjunction with the schools for youthful blind. This, however, was rapidly discontinued upon the establishment of state commissions or state-wide associations for the blind.

At the time the organization of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind was in question it was estimated that there were between 6,000 and 7,000 blind persons in Pennsylvania and that, of this group, 40% had lost their eyes from preventable causes. Experience in Massachusetts and New York had shown that 10% of the blind were under 20 years of age, 50% were over 60 years of age and of the 40% between 20 and 60 years there was a large group of able-bodied men and women who were idle, many enforcedly so, who might be remuneratively employed if not wholly self-supporting if they had been given training.

One of the oldest schools for the blind in the United States was located in Philadelphia; this City was also the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, caring for about 117 men in 1910; the Pennsylvania Industrial Home for Blind Women, caring for 74 women; the Chapin Memorial Home for Aged Blind just opened with three residents and the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind employing teachers to visit the homes of the blind throughout the State to teach the reading of Moon



and Braille types. The Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society also furnished embossed books to blind readers. With the exception of the one teacher for adults maintained by the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and the Pittsburgh School for blind children, Western Pennsylvania had no active work for the blind.

"Superintendent Thomas S. McAloney, in his report of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, for 1907, discussed the conditions and needs of the adult blind and urged that the good people of Pennsylvania think seriously of this matter. In his report for 1908, Mr. McAloney again advised the consideration of the needs of the adult blind, and recorded the beginning of home teaching in Pittsburgh, with Miss Margaret Quirk, (now Mrs. Frank Gaston), herself blind, as teacher, supplied by the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society to work under the direction of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. In October, 1908, the board of directors of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind asked Mr. McAloney to prepare statistics relating to organizations for the adult blind in the United States, with the object of starting an association in Pittsburgh. In pursuance of this he visited, in January, 1909, the work in the eastern states."\*

During Mr. McAloney's absence, the Pittsburgh Council of Jewish Women received a communication from the National Council of Jewish



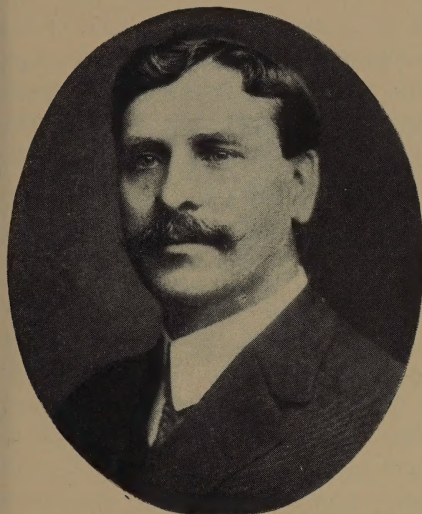
MRS. MOSES RUSLANDER

Women, requesting the local branch, of which Mrs. Enoch Rauh was Chairman, to help the blind of its City. Upon his return, the Pittsburgh Council of Jewish Women advised with him and as a result of this conference Mr. McAloney introduced a resolution at a meeting of the Congress of Women's Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, asking their co-operation in a movement in behalf of the blind of the community. Mrs. Robert D. Coard, President of the Congress of Clubs, appointed, in April, 1910, a Committee on Work for the Blind with Mrs. Moses Ruslander as its first Chairman. Mrs. Ruslander, who was also the Chairman of the Committee on the Blind for the Pittsburgh Council of

\*From First Annual Report.



Jewish Women and who has continued in the forefront of the work to the present time, realized as the scope of the work became apparent that a separate society was necessary and she invited representative citizens to help her. Their efforts resulted in the organization of the Pittsburgh



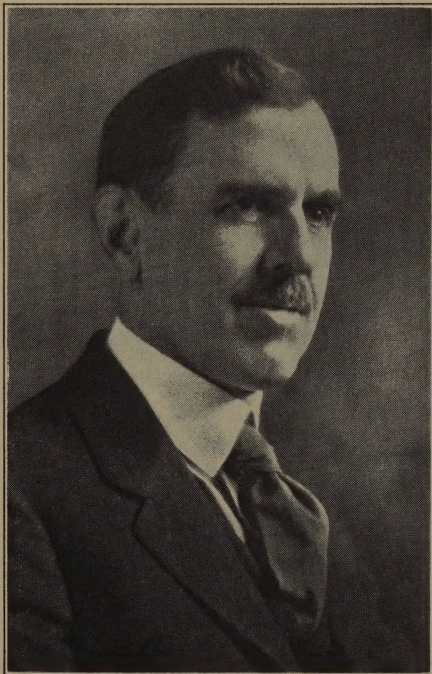
THOMAS S. McALONEY

Association for the Adult Blind in January, 1910, with Col. J. M. Schoonmaker, President; Mrs. Moses Ruslander, Dr. W. W. Blair and Dr. Paul Franklin, Vice-Presidents; George D. Edwards, Treasurer; and Miss Jessie Welles and Mrs. Charles H. Friend, Honorary Secretaries. Mr. McAloney was an active member of the Board and upon his taking charge of the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, was succeeded by Bradley S. Joice, as Superintendent of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, who has continued to give valuable assistance to the Association as member of the Board and

chairman of the Workshop Committee.

In June, 1910, Charles F. F. Campbell, son of Sir Francis Campbell the well-known educator of the blind, Superintendent of the Industrial Department of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and formerly Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, was called to Pittsburgh to undertake the work of this new organization for the blind.

Soon after Mr. Campbell became its Executive Secretary, the name of the organization was changed to the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind and its purpose and duties were outlined as follows: To promote the interests of the blind; to prevent unnecessary blindness, and

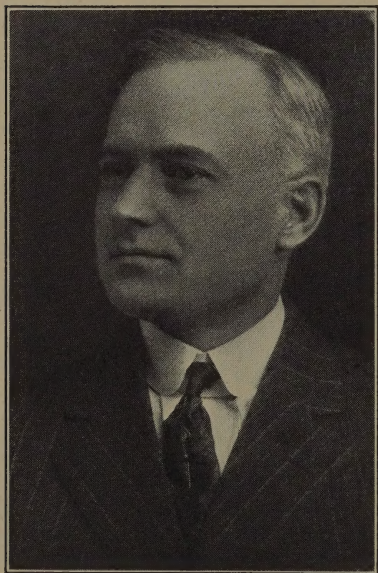


CHARLES F. F. CAMPBELL



to further the conservation of eyesight; but more particularly to function as a bureau of information and industrial aid; to employ blind men and women in their homes or in places of business with persons of sight; to give or secure aid for the poor, the aged and infirm who were not capable of learning a trade; and to arouse the public, to a clearer appreciation of the capabilities of the blind to the end that they might secure more employment. A charter was granted the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind as a State-wide organization in May, 1912 and the affairs of the organization were vested in a Board of eighteen directors, one-third of this number being elected for three years by active members of the Association at their regular annual meetings in January of each year.

Mr. Campbell resigned in October, 1911, to become the Executive Secretary of the Ohio Commission for the Blind. During his fifteen months as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association, Mr. Campbell was chiefly occupied with the inauguration of the Pittsburgh Workshop and the conduct of a publicity lecture campaign. He laid the foundation of the Women's Home Work Department and looked forward to carrying the industrial and preventive work into other sections of the State. It was with regret that Mr. Campbell left Pennsylvania after so short a term of service. However, as the Commonwealth had made no appropriation for State-wide activities, and as the City appropriation was given specifically for an industrial establishment for the blind of Pittsburgh, thus localizing the work, and this being well organized, Mr. Campbell felt compelled to accept the call to Ohio with the promise of State-wide work and adequate funds to undertake it.



W. H. LONG

Upon Mr. Campbell's resignation, Mr. William Hamilton Long was made Director of the Pittsburgh Workshop. Mr. Long lost his sight at the age of seven years and was the first pupil to be admitted to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind. He achieved honors in the first class that graduated from that Institution and became a tuner in a local piano store where he was employed for nearly fifteen years. Mr. Long believed it would be possible to open a piano store which would serve as a center for the employment of capable blind salesmen not only in the Pittsburgh area but throughout the State. The Pittsburgh Workshop showed its



interest in this idea by providing salesrooms in its headquarters and through his close affiliation with the Pennsylvania Association, Mr. Long became so familiar with the aims and work of that organization that it was a natural step to make him the Director of the Pittsburgh Workshop.

Mr. Hugh Arthur, Managing Editor of the Pittsburgh Post, was appointed Executive Secretary of the Association in May and took up his duties on September 15, 1912, resigning March 1, 1913, to take up other work, although continuing his interest by accepting membership on the Board of Directors. It was under Mr. Arthur's leadership that the first step in State-wide organization was taken in the establishment of the Lackawanna Branch of the Association.

In the interim between the resignation of Mr. Campbell and the appointment of Mr. Arthur, the work of the Association was efficiently carried on by Miss Frances S. Reed, now Mrs. J. Frank Lumb, who began her work with the Association under Mr. Campbell in 1910 and continued as Assistant Secretary until called to Ohio in 1915 to become Assistant Executive Secretary of the Ohio Commission for the Blind, where she succeeded Mr. Campbell as Executive Secretary in 1916 and in which position she has continued to date.

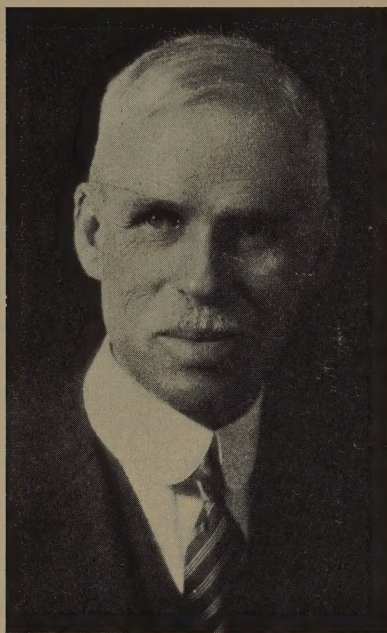
Mr. W. W. Stamm, a Pittsburgh newspaper man, formerly Sunday editor of the Pittsburgh Sunday Post, was elected Executive Secretary, March, 1913, to fill the position left vacant by Mr. Arthur's resignation. Mr. Stamm, with his experience in the advertising field and as publicity agent for various social service organizations, was able to continue the educational publicity campaign begun by Mr. Campbell and was instrumental in securing a motion picture film, "Toilers in the Dark," which he used, together with lantern slides, to illustrate the lectures he gave in different sections of the State.

In 1918, Mr. Stamm was granted an extended leave-of-absence for Y. M. C. A. work in France. He was given a Lieutenant's Commission and took part in the training, over seas, of the American sailors and soldiers blinded in the World War, later bringing a group of these men to Evergreen, Baltimore, Maryland, the center for the re-education of blind soldiers in the United States.

Mr. Long, who had shown such splendid business ability as Director of the Pittsburgh Workshop was at this time made Acting Executive Secretary of the Association, later becoming Executive Secretary, a position he filled with understanding and ability until his death in August, 1921. With his tireless energy, he effected many changes and improvements in the work of the Association and the Pittsburgh Workshop. It was during his administration that the Association purchased the property and remodeled the building which now houses the headquarters of the Association and the Pittsburgh Workshop. He re-organized the Branches in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre and assisted the

latter Branch by helpful advice and inspiration in securing the building which houses the activities of that organization.

Mr. H. Randolph Latimer, one of the best known blind men in the United States, was appointed in 1921 to take the position of Executive Secretary left vacant by the death of Mr. Long. Graduating from the



H. RANDOLPH LATIMER

Maryland School for the Blind, Mr. Latimer, who began teaching in that School at the age of nineteen, giving instruction in practically every department, filling the post of librarian, his full measure of responsibility for the daily discipline of the students and ten years head teacher of the school, is one of the most thoughtful men in work for the blind. In spite of his heavy duties as head teacher, he secured his Ph.B. degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1899 and the following year took a course in the history and theory of education at Harvard University. Mr. Latimer is undoubtedly best known in both this country and England because of his tireless and invaluable work in connection with the activities of the Uniform Type Committee, later known as the Uni-

form Type Commission, of which he served as Executive Secretary until its work was turned over to the American Foundation for the Blind in 1923. Mr. Latimer will long be remembered in Maryland for his valuable services in connection with the local work for the adult blind and his assistance in 1908 in organizing the Maryland Association of Workers for the Blind. Mr. Latimer was elected President of the American Association of Workers for the Blind in 1919 and re-elected to this office in 1921. As Chairman of the Committee, which in September, 1921, incorporated the organization known as the American Foundation for the Blind, Mr. Latimer crystallized the idea and drafted the plan which has made this Foundation representative of work for the blind of the entire country. He served temporarily as Director General, which office he held in conjunction with his work as Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, until December 31, 1922, when, upon the appointment of a permanent Director-General, he was made a trustee of the Foundation.



The position of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in the Commonwealth today is a monument to Mr. Latimer's vision and understanding of the problems facing the blind and workers for the blind.

Despite the idea generally prevalent, even among the leading workers for the blind, that blind executives are not efficient, it has been the policy and practice of this Association, with ample manifestations and justified results, to employ blind and partially blind men and women as executives of branches and heads of departments.

A system of augmenting wages is an important innovation in the policy of the Association, adopted upon Mr. Latimer's recommendation, in February, 1922. Under this plan, each worker receives all he actually

**Augmentation  
of Wage**

earns, plus a handicap or disability allowance at the rate of so much a week less a sum equal to three-fifths of his earnings. This system is, in Mr. Latimer's opinion, eminently humane in that it insures a living wage to the worker of low productivity, whose efforts, however, great, do not produce the results obtained by those of his more capable brother and at the same time does not undermine individual initiative.

This method of augmentation of wage has elicited so many inquiries that space is given to a reproduction of an article about it, written by Mr. Latimer for the Beacon Magazine:

1. "The blind piece-worker is paid the same rate as is paid for the same work by the local trade union to the seeing worker; and the flat-rate paid the blind worker is estimated by comparison with that paid to local seeing workers for the same kind and quantity of work. Since the amount of work done by a blind person is far below that produced by the average seeing worker, either on piece or flat work, even the trade-union rate of wage does not suffice to insure him a living wage. We, therefore, resort to the following expedient to supplement his economic earnings.

2. "A basic handicap, or \* \* \* disability allowance, of nine dollars, based on a rate of twenty cents an hour for a forty-five hour week, is paid each beginner until his economic earnings become appreciable or until he demonstrates his inability for industrial work. In the latter case, he becomes eligible for such direct relief as is available for him, but, in the former, he is taken on the industrial payroll, and paid as follows:

- (a) He receives his actual economic earnings at the union rate.
- (b) He receives a handicap, or disability allowance, of twenty cents per hour for every hour of actual work during the week, less a sum equal to three-fifths of his economic earnings. (See [a].)

Thus, a man who earns five dollars a week, provided he works the full forty-five hours, receives a total wage of eleven dollars, of which six dollars is handicap, six dollars being the difference between the basic handicap allowed and three-

fifths of his economic earnings; that is, nine dollars less three dollars. In like manner, a man who earns ten dollars a week receives a total wage of thirteen dollars, of which three dollars is handicap, three dollars being the difference between the basic handicap allowed, nine dollars, and six dollars which is three-fifths of his earnings.

- (c) In practice, the basic handicap depends upon the actual number of hours of work; thus, a man working only forty hours is entitled to a basic handicap of eight instead of nine dollars, from which the sum equal to three-fifths of his earnings is subtracted. In such a case, the man earning five dollars would receive a handicap of only five dollars, and the man earning ten dollars would receive only two dollars handicap. This, of course, assumes that his earnings are as great for the forty hours as for the forty-five hours, which may sometimes be true.
- (d) Stating the matter in a slightly different way, whatever the economic earnings are and whatever the basic handicap amounts to at twenty cents per hour of actual work, a man's wage is equal to his earnings plus a disability allowance equal to the basic handicap less three-fifths of his earnings.

3. "As nine dollars is equal to three-fifths of fifteen dollars, it is evident that the system works itself out at the point where a man's economic earnings reach fifteen dollars, and that all workers earning fifteen dollars or more are above the handicap or disability allowance limit.

4. "Sick pay, upon physician's certificate and at the discretion of the executive officer, is allowed each worker at his average wage not in excess of fifteen dollars per week, for the equivalent of three forty-five hour weeks, within the year, or for one hundred and thirty-five hours, and for ninety hours more, at the basic handicap rate of twenty cents per hour. The average wage, not in excess of fifteen dollars per week' is allowed for an annual two weeks' vacation, and for all general holidays, such as New Year's Day, Christmas Day, Armistice Day, etc.

5. "The virtues of our handicap or disability allowance system, we believe, are somewhat as follows:

- (a) It insures maintenance during the period of training.
- (b) The total wage paid each blind worker increases as his earning power grows greater, and acts as an incentive to still greater effort.
- (c) The fact that each increase in economic earnings is attended by a reduction in the actual amount of handicap allowed, though the total wage also grows, tends strongly to restore or maintain self-respect.
- (d) The principle of using the union scale of wage both for piece and flat work may be questioned by some, but carries with it



manifest advantage in presenting the cause of our blind worker to the general public.

- (e) The provision for a measure of sick and holiday pay is too manifestly good to require more than the mention.
- (f) The fact that the amount of handicap, or disability allowance, may be reduced or entirely cut off by the executive officer, prevents the idler who is satisfied with a smaller total wage, the greater part of which is handicap, from abusing the system; at the same time that the worthy worker who is able, at his very best, to earn but a small amount, is given a chance, through a substantial disability allowance, to live in a measure of respectability.
- (g) The underlying conditions of the system are elastic, and may, therefore, be adapted to almost any set of special circumstances; that is to say, whether the week is forty-five or any other number of hours matters not, whether the rate of handicap per hour is twenty or any other number of cents, within reasonable limit, matters not, and whether the fraction of earnings used as the sum to graduate the exact amount of handicap is three-fifths, does not matter. These elements may vary to suit the system to the conditions of a particular country or city.
- (h) The gross amount of disability allowance, sick pay, and holiday equals a moderate bonus, with the difference that the greater portion of the handicap money goes to the men of lower economic earning power, who are the men in greatest need. Because of this fact, the system comes more nearly to solving the problem before us than any other plan of which we have knowledge.

6. "A cross section of one of the weekly payrolls of the Association deleted of names, is here presented in further illustration of the practical operation of the system:"

| NAME  | EARNINGS | HANDICAP | SICK   | TOTAL   | HOURS<br>(actual worked) | HOURS<br>OFF* |
|-------|----------|----------|--------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|
| ..... | \$ 5.00  | \$6.00   | .....  | \$11.00 | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 10.00    | 3.00     | .....  | 13.00   | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 18.50    | .....    | .....  | 18.50   | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 15.00    | .....    | .....  | 15.00   | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 14.40    | .36      | .....  | 14.76   | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 8.64     | 3.82     | .....  | 12.46   | 45                       | .....         |
| ..... | 8.05     | .53      | \$5.42 | 14.00   | 29                       | 16            |
| ..... | 11.84    | .30      | 2.62   | 14.76   | 37                       | 8             |
| ..... | 4.40     | 2.16     | .....  | 6.56    | 24                       | 21            |

\*Hours off because of sickness, holiday or voluntary absence.

## Pittsburgh Workshop

One of the first aims of the Association was the establishment of a local workshop and an appeal was made to the City government for money to establish one in Pittsburgh.

Through the active interest of Mrs. John S. Flannery, the Council appropriated \$10,000 and the Pittsburgh Workshop for the Blind was opened in February, 1911, in the old Grace Church, at the corner of Grant and Webster Avenues, an unused building of the Reformed Church in the business section of Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Workshop was, for several years, under the direction of a special committee of eight, appointed by the Mayor, and which included the Director of the Department of Charities, Chief of Police, one member of Select Council, one member of Common Council and four citizens selected from a list submitted by the Associated Charities of Pittsburgh.



FIRST HOME OF THE ASSOCIATION  
Grace Reformed Church, 514 Webster Ave., Pittsburgh.

There was no official relation between the Boards of Managers of the Workshop and the Association although several individuals were members of both boards. As soon as the City Shop Committee was organized, the President of the Association for the Blind, Col. Schoonmaker, sent them the following letter:

TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE  
PITTSBURGH WORKSHOP FOR THE BLIND:

"In view of the fact that the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, which was organized to ameliorate the condition of the blind in Pennsylvania, was founded and has been financed in Pittsburgh, it is but natural that the first interest of the Association should be in the blind of Pittsburgh.

"One of the purposes of the Association is to aid in the establishment, in large centers of population, of workshops for the employment of the blind. Happily the city of Pittsburgh has appropriated money for such a workshop and we hope that it will prove to be a model for other cities in the Commonwealth.



"It seems pre-eminently desirable that all efforts to aid the blind throughout the State should be unified. To undertake this work the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind has engaged an expert, Charles F. F. Campbell, as its Secretary, and we take pleasure in offering his services, gratuitously, as director of the Pittsburgh Workshop for the Blind."

The Board of Directors of the Workshop accepted this offer of the Association and, to make the co-operation as effective as possible, invited the Association to make its headquarters at the Pittsburgh Workshop for the Blind.

The City Shop was open to the blind citizens of Pittsburgh who were thus enabled to live in their homes and go to and from the shop as seeing workmen. The first industries undertaken were the making of brooms and reseating of chairs. Opening with two men in the broom department and with a competent foreman, at the end of the first eleven months there were seven men in the chair caning department, fifteen in the broom shop and twenty-eight women working under the homework department, with a total amount of wages paid to blind employees in that eleven months' period of \$3,752.69.

The following quotation from the Second Annual Report of the Pittsburgh Workshop for 1911 is of interest:

"Ten of the men employed came in as apprentices, and while learning their trade, enough to cover their expenses to and from the shop was paid them. In five cases enough for board and lodging had to be provided during apprenticeship. A number of the employees augment their wages by taking orders for brooms which we sell to them at a special price. Seventy-five pianos, amounting to \$195, have been tuned and repaired, and over \$500 has been earned by the blind through selling pianos for the Long Piano Company. Two men employed in the workshop have been loaned money to purchase musical instruments, which we hope will be the means of their making money by playing for evening entertainments. The first booth for a blind news agent has been erected at the corner of Wood Street and Oliver Avenue."

The Grace Church building in which the Association first established headquarters, had to be given up, as this building and several blocks of other structures were located upon what was commonly known as the "hump," which, after a number of years of agitation, was to be cut down in the spring of 1912. This necessitated finding a new location.

It was important to get at a moderate rental a building conveniently located for the blind employees coming from various parts of the City and which would allow sufficient space for the expansion of the Workshop, for headquarters of the State work and considerable room for the women's department, storage, etc. The old Duquesne School at Second and Liberty Avenues, at the Point near the junction of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers was secured. This unused, first ward school building with four large rooms on each of the first and second floors and space for storage on the third, was secured under an arrangement whereby the City

Council generously defrayed taxes and water rent, thus making the annual cost to the Association very low for so good a site.

It cost \$511.26 to put the building in condition for occupancy. The formal opening took place on the evening of November 6, 1912, with a musical program given by blind performers. Supper was served to the blind present while more than two hundred guests visited the new headquarters.



SECOND HOME OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND  
Duquesne School, Second and Liberty Avenues, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Pittsburgh City Council, which appropriated \$15,000 to the Workshop in 1913 and the same amount for 1914, asked the Association to try to secure quarters where the tax exemption would not be so high as that on the property then occupied, the tax exoneration amounting to \$2,000 yearly. The Association decided to secure, if possible, its own



property and a suitable building. This question came before the Board each year, but it was not until 1918, that this dream became a reality.

A number of properties were considered and on July 1, 1918, the present headquarters of the Association, 434-436 Second Avenue, were purchased for \$40,000, although the Association had in hand only the first payment of \$2,500. Legal possession of the building was secured January 2, 1919, with only \$5,000 still due on the property. Eleven thousand dollars of the thirty-five thousand raised between July 1st and December 31, 1918, came from an All-Star Benefit Theatrical, December 19th, at the Nixon Theatre, which was given free, and \$7,000 from "Eyes for the Blind Day," December 21st, both of which were arranged through the untiring efforts of Lillian Russell Moore, a valued member of the Board of Directors.



PRESENT HOME OF THE ASSOCIATION  
434-436 Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alterations and repairs began at once and the new building at a total cost of \$75,000 was ready for occupancy July 1, 1919. That the new headquarters for the Association and the Workshop were secured and fully paid for in so short a space of time was largely due to the vision and splendid business ability of the Executive Secretary, William H. Long.

As the Pittsburgh Workshop, or the Pittsburgh Branch, as it is now known, has grown, the work has fallen naturally into the following classification: Workshop, fostered home industries, placement, prevention of blindness, social service, recreation and relief. The Pitts-

burgh Workshop, today, employs seventy-two men and ten women in broom, mop and brush making, chair caning, basketry and rug weaving.

The need of finding employment outside the Shop for capable blind men became so acute that in September, 1925, Mr. Guy H. Nickeson\*,

\*Blind.

## Placement

was chosen as the joint placement agent of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind, Pittsburgh, of which he was a graduate, and the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, to further the employment of the blind in industry with the seeing or in independent enterprises. This service was to be extended to the graduates and former pupils of the Western Pennsylvania School, the capable blind of Pittsburgh proper and of Western Pennsylvania in so far as it was practical.

Mr. Joseph F. Clunk\*, a very successful placement officer, now the Placement Agent of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, but formerly connected with the Youngstown, Ohio, Society for the Blind, was secured to come to Pittsburgh one day a week for a definite period to instruct Mr. Nickeson and to demonstrate, by actually performing various operations in the industrial plants themselves, the possibilities of the employment of the blind in industry. So successful has been Mr. Nickeson's work that the twenty-five blind men, placed by him in industry or assisted in setting themselves up in independent enterprises, earned in 1928 over \$30,000 and this figure is exclusive of Mr. Nickeson's salary or any expense in the placement of these men. Furthermore, the figure quoted does not go through the books of the Association but is paid direct to the blind men.



ASSEMBLING NUTS AND BOLTS IN A FACTORY—PITTSBURGH

The increased sales of the Pittsburgh Branch has necessitated the employment of a head salesman and the employment of an increased number of salesmen for both their retail and wholesale business.

## Fostered Home Industries

A beginning was made in 1910 to establish home work for blind women by maintaining at the Pittsburgh Workshop a supply of raw material which was prepared and sent to the homes of the women to be made up into attractive and saleable articles under the

\*Blind.



supervision of an instructor. The worker was paid the difference between the cost of the material and the selling price, the Pittsburgh Workshop being responsible for selling the products of these supervised blind home workers. This department has grown until today work is sent regularly to thirty-eight blind home workers.

In 1928 contact was made with the Retail Merchants' Association and through this organization with the buyers in the retail stores of Pittsburgh. These men have been most co-operative and have given generously of their time and advice in regard to the type of article, and the quality of material that is in demand, which could be made by blind workers, and where prices were favorable they have placed orders with the Pittsburgh Branch.

This service cannot be estimated for the criterion of what should be made in our home work departments should not be gauged by the taste and judgment of one individual but must be governed by the popular demand both as to style and material.

**Prevention of Blindness**                      The need for an active campaign against unnecessary blindness was emphasized early by the Association in the numerous lectures given before organizations in Pittsburgh and vicinity by Mr. Campbell, Executive Secretary, and Dr. W. W. Blair of the Association, who also gave generously of his professional service whenever needed, especially when the Association was without a prevention of blindness worker.

Ten thousand pamphlets on ophthalmia neonatorum were purchased and distributed by the Association. While the Association does not claim credit for the action, in 1910, of the Pittsburgh Department of Health, in distributing free to all physicians who wished it, a prophylactic for the prevention of ophthalmia neonatorum, there can be no doubt that public sentiment aroused by the work of the Association made it easier for the Pittsburgh Department of Health to initiate the measure.

The State Department of Health did not begin the distribution of a prophylactic free to physicians and midwives until after May 13, 1926, when the regulation of the Advisory State Board of Health became effective, making the use of a prophylactic in the eyes of the newborn obligatory for physicians as well as midwives.

Dr. Amelia A. Dranga, the first chairman of the Committee on Prevention of Blindness, arranged a meeting in 1915, at which Mr. Campbell was asked to speak, in an effort to stimulate an interest in prevention and the employment of a trained nurse to head up this phase of the Association's program. It was not, however, until the fall of 1916 that a trained nurse was employed through the interest of Rev. Dr. J. Leonard Levy, who raised the funds necessary to carry on a three months' experimental piece of work in prevention of blindness. This nurse was sent to Boston in 1917 for special eye work at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary and upon her return Dr. Dranga resigned as chairman

of the Prevention of Blindness Committee in favor of Dr. W. W. Blair who was Chairman of the Committee on Ophthalmology of the Pennsylvania State Medical Association, as she felt that the work should be directed by an eye specialist. The Pennsylvania Association is, so far as known, the first organization for the blind to enable a worker to take special training in the care of the eye and it is worthy of note in the history of the organization.

It should also be recorded that the Association asked the State Legislature, in 1917, for an appropriation of \$5,000 for the employment of two nurses to carry on work for the prevention of blindness in different parts of the State as a part of the State-wide activities of this Association, but this request was not granted by the Legislature. The Pocahontas Club, however, a group of philanthropically inclined Pittsburgh women, having completed its original task of erecting a monument to Pocahontas at Jamestown, Va., turned its attention, before disbanding, to prevention of blindness. Mrs. J. G. Lewis, President of the Pocahontas Club, was a member of the Board of Directors of the Association and the Club gave upwards of \$1,500 for prevention of blindness in 1924, thus for a time, extending the work of preventing unnecessary blindness when State funds were not forthcoming.

Although several changes in the personnel of the Prevention of Blindness Department took place, each year has seen an increasing number of persons restored to sight and the vision of many improved, who might otherwise have joined the ranks of the blind. An average of over two hundred cases are served annually through this Department. During 1928 two hundred and sixty-nine cases were reported and a hundred and ninety-two of these received treatment.

Through the suggestion of Dr. Blair, Chairman of the Prevention of Blindness Committee, the Association offers annually, through the Medical School of the University of Pittsburgh a prize of \$100.00 to the student writing the best essay on some phase of prevention of blindness.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Social<br>Service | The Social Service Committee under the able leadership of Mrs. Moses Ruslander, Chairman since its inception, has rendered active and valuable assistance to the organization. Mrs. Ruslander was the founder and a charter member of the Pennsylvania Association and has served as first Vice-President since 1910. She has been an active member from the beginning and there is no phase of work for the blind in which she is not deeply interested. Mrs. Ruslander has been a prominent figure in the Council of Jewish Women, in the Congress of Women's Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women and, as Chairman of the Social Service Committee, has been untiring in her efforts to render service to the blind of Pittsburgh. |
|-------------------|--|

During the first year, in addition to helpful service by the distribution of wood, coal and clothing, and furnishing recreation, readers,



music, etc., some of Pittsburgh's blind enjoyed two weeks' vacation at Lilian Fresh Air Farm through the co-operation of Kingsley House, and this privilege has been continued to the present time. Daily lunch hour readings and entertainment are furnished the workers in the Pittsburgh

Workshop by a sub-committee of the Social Service Committee under the direction of Mrs. D. T. Jonas, who has been connected with the work of the Association since 1910 and a member of the Board of Directors since 1919.

The annual picnic for the blind of the Pittsburgh area, held in one of the parks of the City for a number of years, now takes the form of an all-day boat ride on the Ohio River. A substantial lunch is served and music and games are provided. A Christmas dinner is given annually to the men employed in the Shop.

The Progressive Blind Women's Club was organized through the interest of Mrs. Ruslander and is now federated with the Congress of Women's Clubs. Members of women's clubs of the City and suburbs

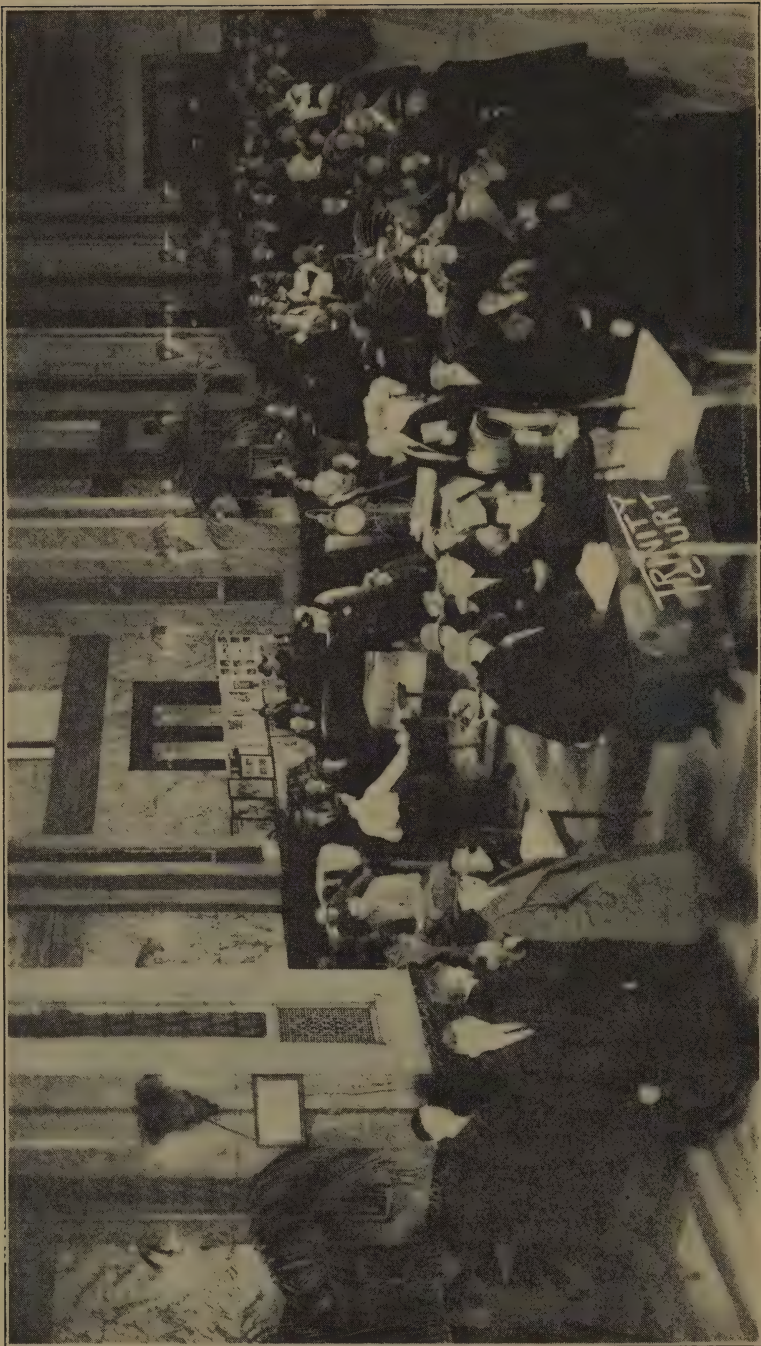


MRS. D. T. JONAS

and interested individuals have for many years met regularly at the Workshop and rendered valuable assistance in the cutting, basting and preparation of materials to be made up by the blind home workers. Loans have been made to enable blind men to start small business enterprises by which they have become independent, the Committee raising money for this service by entertainments, benefit theatrical performances, etc. It would be impossible to enumerate the many ways in which the Social Service Committee has rendered constant assistance to the blind both in the workshop and in the City.

An extension of the work of the Social Service Committee has been the appointment of a recreational visitor who visits the blind in their homes and he has been the means of bringing daily sunshine and cheer into the lives of scores of blind people in the Western part of the State. This visitor is also gradually systematizing the relief work of the Pittsburgh Branch of the Association.

#### Recreation and Relief



FIRST PITTSBURGH WEEK FOR THE BLIND, WABASH BUILDING, PITTSBURGH, PA.  
Organized by the American Foundation for the Blind, December, 1923.



Pittsburgh's First Week for the Blind organized by a representative of the American Foundation for the Blind in co-operation with the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind was held in December 1923, in the Wabash Building with all of the other local organizations interested in the blind and

**Weeks For  
The Blind**

the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness assisting. While these Weeks for the Blind were organized primarily to carry on an educational and publicity campaign, they have served as opportunities for moving merchandise. Fifteen thousand interested friends visited the First Week for the Blind and resulted in an increase of \$10,000 in sales during the year 1924. The methods by which the blind receive their education as well as a variety of occupations were demonstrated by boys and girls from the School and adults from the Workshop.

A tea room was conducted during the week under the direction of the women's organizations of the different churches of Pittsburgh and the funds thus derived paid all the overhead expenses incurred in holding the Week for the Blind.

The Second Week for the Blind, with Mrs. William Frew again acting as General Chairman, was held in the Wabash Building, in April, 1925. No finer setting could have been secured for such a demonstration than this beautiful building, the use of which has been given most graciously, each year, by the officials of the Company owning the Wabash Building. The 1926 or Third Week for the Blind, now an established annual event in Pittsburgh, was limited to three days, April 20th being Catholic Day, April 21st, Jewish Day and April 22d, Protestant Day, with Mrs. Ambrose N. Diehl as General Chairman. This plan was so successful that the 1927 and 1928 Weeks for the Blind were conducted under the same plan. Due to the publicity given by these educational campaigns, the sales from the Pittsburgh Workshop were \$27,000 greater during 1927 than the previous year.

In addition to a booth maintained at each exhibition, special emphasis has been placed upon conservation of vision and the prevention of blindness. During the 1928 Week for the Blind the educational campaign was sponsored by the Congress of Women's Clubs of Western Pennsylvania under the personal supervision of the Chairman of the Department of Public Welfare of the Congress and letters were sent out to churches asking that Prevention of Blindness be the basic theme for sermons on Sunday, April 15th.

Seventeen engagements to speak before schools, clubs and civic organizations were secured for Mr. Lewis H. Carris, Managing Director of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, in addition to which Mr. Carris twice broadcasted over the radio. In all these addresses, Mr. Carris emphasized the need for the prevention of unnecessary blindness, the conservation of vision in the home, in the school and in industry

and called attention to the educational exhibit then being held in the Wabash Building.

As the name of the organization indicates and as is clearly stated in the letter from Colonel Schoonmaker in 1910, and frequently referred to in the early reports of the organization, it was the purpose of the Association to extend over the State the same sort of industrial assistance and relief for blind men and women, as well as the campaign for the prevention of blindness that had been inaugurated in Pittsburgh and vicinity. Funds appropriated by the City Council could not be used outside of Pittsburgh, and, as other funds became available, there was no executive to further the establishment of State work in the early years.

#### Expansion

Scranton, having a large adult blind population and surrounded with industries that were the cause of additional blindness each year, was selected by the Board for the establishment of a branch and a temporary organization was effected November 1, 1912, after two weeks of personal work among influential men and women of Scranton by the Executive Secretary. On November 1, 1912, a committee of seven persons was formed as the nucleus of an Association Branch and a visitor was employed who immediately began a canvass of those blind people returned on the U. S. Census resulting in a list of over sixty blind persons in Scranton.

#### Lackawanna Branch

On January 23, 1913, the Lackawanna Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind was organized with headquarters in Scranton and the employment of Mrs. Anna V. Van Orman, now Mrs. Walter Francis, a social worker of Scranton as Supervisor. The real activity of the Branch began in May, 1913, when it opened headquarters in commodious rooms, easily accessible from the center of the business district at 721 Mulberry Street.

During 1913, the first year of the activities of this Branch, \$1,335.04 were put into the hands of twenty-six of Lackawanna County's blind, many new names added to their census, social service rendered an increasing number, the sight of three people saved and splendid publicity secured. The Scranton City Council appropriated \$1,000 in 1914 and for 1915, five hundred dollars for the first six months of the year. During 1916, owing to lack of funds, the rooms on Mulberry Street were given up and an office in the Leonard Building substituted. This enabled the Supervisor to do more field work and the blind formerly employed in the shop carried on their work in their own homes. The Board of Directors, of which Colonel L. A. Watres is still President, in February 1919, raised \$2,500, and a new workshop and salesroom were secured at 340 Adams Avenue, near the business center of Scranton with Francis S. Graves\*, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Education of the Blind, as Supervisor. With the reorganization of the Lackawanna Branch

\*Blind.



in 1919, the field work and shop activities were greatly enlarged, emphasis placed upon prevention of blindness, routing blind children to a school for the blind, financial relief rendered when possible, recreation, comfort and cheer by friendly visits given to the shut-in and aged blind, with an increasing number of the blind in Scranton and the County brought into direct contact with the Association. In addition to their other activities, this Branch has been making train order hooks, a device used for handing written orders from the platform of the railroad station to the engineers of moving trains.

In 1921 the Lackawanna Branch was taken into the Scranton Community Welfare Association and thus their annual campaigns for raising funds, with which to finance their work, were discontinued, although, in addition to their sales, they continue to receive an allotment from the State appropriation to the parent organization, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. In the Fall of 1927, a survey of Lackawanna County was made by the State Council for the Blind which resulted in placing the Association in touch with additional blind men and women. Since Lions' International adopted work for the blind as their major activity, the Lions of Scranton have taken more and more interest in the work in Scranton and in 1928 several members of the local club were elected to membership on the Board of Directors of the Lackawanna Branch. In 1928 and 1929 Scranton held its First Weeks for the Blind. These were organized by the American Foundation for the Blind and have brought the Lackawanna Branch many friends, as each day of the educational demonstration was in charge of a church group. In this way all the denominations and clubs in Scranton became acquainted with the capabilities and needs of the blind. During the 1929 Week for the Blind, a gift of \$200 was given for the purchase of looms and weaving has been started under the instruction of the Supervisor of Industries of the State Council for the Blind.

**Wilkes-Barre.** The work for the blind in Wilkes-Barre was organized by Miss Arline Phillips\*, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, and who for two years had carried on home teaching for the blind in Luzerne County under the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind.

Realizing the need for permanent work for the blind in Wilkes-Barre, Miss Phillips began on half time, with a limited salary to carry on work under the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. A generous friend paid for office room and the first money raised was in the form of dues to the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. This effort on Miss Phillips' part stimulated such an interest in the blind that in October of 1917, the Wilkes-Barre Committee of the Pennsylvania Association, numbering ten representative men and women was organized. The

\*Blind.

establishment of the Wilkes-Barre Branch of the Pennsylvania Association followed in November 1918, as the result of a visit from Mr. W. H. Long, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association and headquarters were opened in a small room in an office building, with Miss Phillips as Supervisor, who, in addition to her office duties, visited the blind in their homes and taught them useful industries and solicited orders for chair caning, carpet weaving and piano tuning.

As the work grew, the need of a workshop and salesroom were apparent and in April, 1919, a large storeroom with basement was rented at 44 North Main Street. Three carpet looms were installed and seven men began work, three at weaving and four at chair caning. The business of the Branch increased rapidly and soon there were sixteen looms with all the modern accessories and equipment for making rag carpet and rugs. The rugs were made from ingrain and brussels carpets and varied in width from twenty-seven inches to nine feet.

Blind women were not employed in the shop, but were organized under the Home Work Department, and material to be made up into household articles was sent from headquarters to the women in their own homes.

In 1920, Mr. Abram G. Nesbitt, a member of the Board of Directors presented the Association with a plot of ground at 35 East Union Street on which to erect a building, but for which money had to be found so it was decided to appeal to the citizens of Wilkes-Barre. For four weeks prior to their financial drive an intensive campaign about the work and the need of a building was carried on, and, due to the interest of Mr. Paul Bedford, Chairman, Mr. Leo W. Long, Treasurer and Miss Phillips' enthusiasm and indefatigable efforts, \$53,000 were raised in three weeks. Work on the new building which now houses the Wilkes-Barre Branch was begun in April, 1921, and was completed for occupancy September 26, 1921. The building is of steel and concrete and especially designed to meet the requirements of its blind workers. On the first floor are the executive offices, salesroom, directors' room, shipping room, dispensary and large auditorium. The second floor was at first devoted entirely to weaving, but in 1927 a portion of it was taken over for the mattress making and renovating department, financed and installed by the Wilkes-Barre Lions' Club. In the basement, there is a large dining room and kitchen, stock room, a well-equipped laundry for the washing of carpets and a cutting room, also a large dust eradicator for the cleaning of rags and carpets. The making of rugs from ingrain and brussels carpets was later discontinued and the Branch has specialized in weaving rag carpet by the yard for which there has been a steady market.

The social service work among the blind of the community was greatly enlarged with the completion of the new building and an increased number of blind men employed either in the workshop or in their home as salesmen, caners, or piano tuners. The men receive good wages,



having been given a 30% increase in July, 1925. A 20% commission is paid to all salesmen soliciting orders for the Association.

The Wilkes-Barre Branch was taken into the Welfare Federation in 1921. In addition to its sales and the money received from the Federation, the Branch receives an allotment from the State appropriation to the parent organization, the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.



WILKES-BARRE BRANCH OF PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION FOR BLIND  
35 East Union Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Wilkes-Barre and vicinity, with a population of nearly 100,000, has a very large foreign element of Poles, Slovaks, Lithuanians, Russians, southern Slavs and Italians, working in the mines and large industrial plants. The need for carrying on work for the prevention of unnecessary blindness became more and more evident and in 1926 through the generosity of Mr. Lea Hunt, then Chairman of the local Board of Directors, a trained nurse was employed for one year to begin this work. It is the hope of the Branch to develop this phase of its work and to extend, to a greater degree, its service among the blind of the County.

In October, 1918, work was started in Harrisburg by Miss Amy K. Halfpenny\*, formerly a teacher in the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Philadelphia, who worked from her home as a center. She was succeeded by Miss Margaret Pollock, (now Mrs. Dewitt Gable), who had served as Miss Halfpenny's guide and who continued on half time to give instruction in home occupations and secure work which was sent to the homes of those blind people who needed to earn money. As this work grew, influential citizens became interested and Mr. Latimer,

Dauphin County  
Branch

\*Blind.

Executive Secretary of the Association, presented a request to the Harrisburg Welfare Federation that the work for the blind be included in their budget for 1923 to the end that a small sales and workroom might be opened. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee of the Harrisburg Welfare Federation, and with the co-operation of the Women's Civic Club of Harrisburg, a local committee was formed and called together by Mrs. Lyman Gilbert on January 4, 1923, at which time the first steps were taken toward organizing the Dauphin County Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, with Mr. David E. Tracy, as Chairman. Mr. Latimer and many of the present members of the Board were present at this meeting.

Upon the untimely death of Mr. Tracey in February of that year, the local work was ably carried on by the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Geo. H. Ashley, who was untiring in her efforts to develop the work of the Dauphin County Branch. Upon her resignation in December, 1924 Mrs. C. Valentine Kirby was appointed Vice-Chairman.

Dr. Clyde H. Garwood, newly elected Superintendent of Schools in the City of Harrisburg was elected Chairman of the Dauphin County Branch in the autumn of 1923, resigning the next year as the duties of his new position absorbed more and more of his time.

The Branch in April, 1923, opened a small shop on Boyd Street, in one of the houses which were given free for the use of deserving blind residents of Harrisburg by Mr. Patrick Vaughn, a citizen of Harrisburg, and Mrs. Gable continued to supervise the work until her resignation in August.

In October, 1923, Miss M. Pearl Mason\* was employed as Supervisor and the headquarters of the Branch were moved to the Welfare Building, corner of Second and South Streets, where it had a small salesroom on the street and the use of a tiny two-story structure at the rear for a shop.

The Harrisburg Branch was taken into the Welfare Federation the same year. In addition to the funds from this source and from the sale of its products the Dauphin County Branch receives an allotment from the parent organization.

Upon the resignation of Mr. John W. Rodenhaver, who had succeeded Dr. Garwood as Chairman of the Dauphin County Branch, Mrs. Kirby was elected Chairman, and gave unstintingly of her time and energy until her resignation early in 1928. She was succeeded by Mr. Harold H. Suender, a business man of Harrisburg and a member of the local Lions' Club. Mr. Suender had served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania District of Lions' International and as Secretary of their Major Activities Committee. In this latter position he assisted in carrying out their State program and had thus become familiar with work for the blind

\*Partially Blind.



in the State, making his election as Chairman of the Dauphin County Branch a happy selection.

In 1927, a survey of the blind of Dauphin County was made by the State Council for the Blind and an additional group of blind people brought into touch with the organization. Similar surveys of Perry and Cumberland Counties have been made and the data is available for use by the Branch as the Harrisburg Welfare Federation includes Perry County and a part of Cumberland County in its activities.

With the rebuilding of the Welfare Building in 1928, it was necessary to move the Association into temporary quarters in a residence on Pine Street while looking about for suitable and permanent headquarters at a reasonable rental.

Miss Mason resigned in December, 1928, and in January, 1929, was succeeded by Mrs. L. J. Johnson\* formerly in charge of the home teaching department of the Maryland Workshop for the Blind in Baltimore.

In January, 1929, a sub-committee of the Family Study Group organized by the Harrisburg Welfare Federation began the study of the blind mendicant. At its second meeting the blind people themselves were invited to meet with the Committee to learn at first hand the attitude of the Committee and the recommendation of the Welfare Federation that a group of three work with them individually in an effort to formulate a plan whereby they and their dependents might be taken care of in some other way than seeking alms on the City streets. After three months of intensive work by the Committee of three a report was submitted to the Sub-Committee and later to the Family Study Group both of which endorsed the plan that a certain sum of money be set aside by the Welfare Federation for this group.

The plan was approved by the Executive Committee of the Welfare Federation and at the completion of their successful 1929 Drive for funds, the first checks were sent out to this group of handicapped citizens on April 30th.

The two members of the Committee of three, who were not members of the Dauphin Branch, have been voted to membership and in this way will help the officers of the Association in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee, as the administration of this fund for the mendicants has been placed with the Dauphin County Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.

Soon after Mr. Latimer assumed his duties as executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Association, he suggested holding a conference of the executives of all organizations doing state-wide work for the blind.

**Pennsylvania Council** At this conference, which was held in Philadelphia, Jan. 8, 1923, a voluntary association was formed, called the Pennsylvania Council for the Blind, of which Mr. O. H. Burritt was elected chairman, Mr. John H. Meader, vice-chairman, and Mr. Latimer, secretary.

\*Partially Blind.

The Council for the Blind, this unofficial group of the executives of the various organizations for the blind in the Commonwealth, was instrumental, with the assistance of Dr. Ellen C. Potter, then Secretary of Welfare, and State Senator Henry E. Lanius\*, in securing the passage of a bill through the 1923 Legislature creating a temporary Commission to Study the Conditions Relating to Blind Persons in Pennsylvania.

Early in 1924, Governor Pinchot, as authorized by the Legislature of 1923, appointed this Commission, of which there were nine members drawn from the workers for the blind in the State and those interested in educational and social work. Senator Lanius was elected Chairman at the first meeting in March, 1924. He later resigned but remained an active member of the Commission. On his resignation at the July meeting, Mr. Latimer, Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind was elected Chairman.

An exhaustive report was presented to the 1925 Legislature with the recommendation that a State Council for the Blind be created to serve as a co-ordinating agency with advisory and supervisory powers for all work for the blind in the Commonwealth except that already functioning under the Department of Public Instruction.

The State Council for the Blind was created by Act of Assembly, following the recommendation of the Commission and signed by Governor Pinchot, May 14, 1925. It functions as a departmental administrative commission under the Department of Welfare and is composed of seven members, three ex-officio, representing the Departments of Welfare, Public Instruction, and Labor and Industry, and four who were appointed by the Governor in the Fall of 1925. Active work began in January, 1926, with the appointment of Mrs. Mary Dranga Campbell, as Executive Director.

The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind was one of the organizations for the blind in the Commonwealth that took an active part in another co-operative effort to forward work for the blind, by helping to make the exhibit of work by and for the blind at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition in 1926 a success. Mr. H. Randolph Latimer, the Executive Secretary of the Association, was a member of both the general committee and of the executive committee that had this exhibit in charge.

The Pennsylvania Association not only contributed to the financial support of maintaining the exhibit, but Mr. and Mrs. Latimer took charge of the exhibit for a week, as did other representatives of the organization, the Hon. Henry E. Lanius and son, Mr. Guy H. Nickeson and cousin, Mr. and Mrs. Francis S. Graves, and Miss M. Pearl Mason,

\*Blind.



thus materially assisting the Council for the Blind in having executives or members of boards of managers on duty each week at the exhibit in the Palace of Education.

One of the duties of the State Council, as specified by law, is to maintain a register of the blind, but the Council, wishing to be of greater service than a hurried census of the blind would render possible, sent its field representatives into some of the more densely populated counties to make contact with the blind people in their own homes.

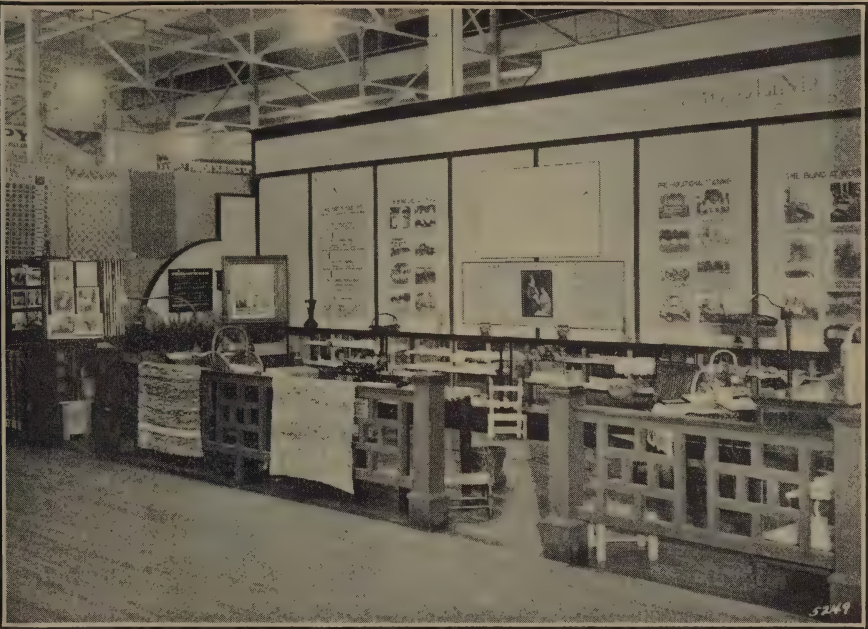


EXHIBIT OF WORK BY AND FOR THE BLIND  
Palace of Education—Sesqui-Centennial Exposition, 1926—Philadelphia, Pa.

During 1927 and 1928 surveys in twenty counties were made, following which, branches of the Pennsylvania Association have been organized in Lancaster, Venango, Blair, Cambria, Beaver, Lehigh and Northampton Counties by the Lions' Clubs or by a committee of representative citizens and members of the Lions' Clubs. The Philadelphia Branch was organized before the Council's survey and is representative of all of the agencies in any way concerned with the blind of Philadelphia County, members of the Lions' Clubs, social service organizations of that vicinity and representative citizens.

The following table gives the entire number of branches of the Pennsylvania Association, the date each was established and work begun as well as the number of blind people brought into contact with organized work for the blind:

## Pennsylvania Association For the Blind

|                                | ORGANIZED      | APPROXIMATE<br>BLIND<br>POPULATION | ACTIVE<br>WORK<br>STARTED |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pittsburgh Branch.....         | 1910           | 1200*                              | 1910                      |
| Lackawanna Branch.....         | 1913           | 275                                | 1913                      |
| Wilkes-Barre Branch.....       | 1917           | 300                                | 1917                      |
| Dauphin County Branch.....     | 1923           | 175                                | 1923                      |
| Lancaster County Branch.....   | 1926           | 175                                | Feb. 1, 1927              |
| Venango County Branch.....     | 1926           | 60                                 |                           |
| Blair County Branch.....       | Mar. 9, 1927   | 125                                | Apr. 1, 1927              |
| Cambria County Branch.....     | Mar. 9, 1927   | 150                                |                           |
| Philadelphia Branch.....       | Sept. 23, 1927 | 2000                               | Oct. 1, 1927              |
| Beaver County Branch.....      | Feb. 9, 1928   | 75                                 | Feb. 13, 1928             |
| Northampton County Branch..... | June 15, 1928  | 150                                | Sept. 1, 1928             |
| Lehigh County Branch.....      | Sept. 29, 1928 | 150                                | Sept. 1, 1928             |

\*The Pittsburgh Branch not only serves the blind of Allegheny County but so far as able extends its work to the blind of Western Pennsylvania.

The work of the new branches is yet too new to have passed into history. Reports of their organization and activities will be found in the 18th Report of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind covering the twenty-nine months from January 1, 1927 to May 31, 1929.

Early in 1929, a separate Board of Directors was set up to manage the affairs of the Pittsburgh Branch, whose activities, for several years past, had been completely merged in the Association at large and which had shared the financial responsibility of the state-wide activities of the Association.

A complete revision of the By-Laws of the Association was adopted at the Annual Meeting, January 10, 1929, by which representatives from the Board of Directors of the several Branches will have membership on the Board of Trustees of the Association at large.

The increased state appropriation from the 1929 Legislature will relieve the Pittsburgh Branch of financial responsibility toward the state-wide activities of the Association and permit the continuation of the giving of a small annual allotment to each of the branches.

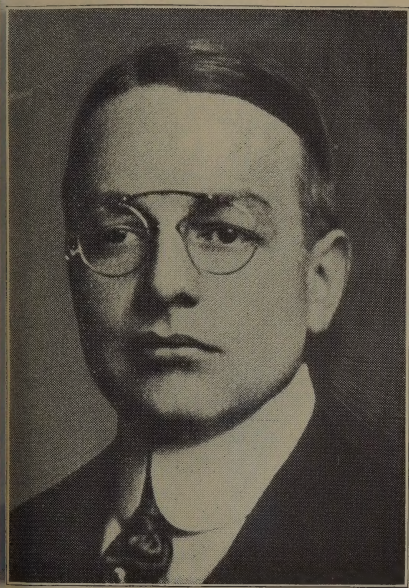
One of the most unique contributions to work for the blind generally and of deep significance to the work in Pennsylvania was the decision in July, 1925, of Lions' International to make work for the blind their major activity. Mr. W. A. Royston, Jr., of Pittsburgh, was elected Chairman of the Committee on Work for the Blind of the Pennsylvania District of Lions' Clubs and to membership on the Board of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in the Fall of 1925. Anxious to function along the line of their major activity, Mr. Royston conferred with Mr. Latimer with the result that the Lions' Clubs of Pennsylvania, in 1926, voted to underwrite for the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, the funds

### Pennsylvania Lions' Clubs



necessary to carry on a State-wide educational campaign for the prevention of blindness and the welfare of the blind with the Hon. Henry E. Lanius, State Senator from York County, as lecturer and Field Representative of the Association. This educational campaign was carried to every part of the State and has materially contributed to the enlargement of the Association from four branches to twelve in the past two years.

Although the Lions' Campaign has closed, Senator Lanius still continues active in work for the blind as Field Representative of the Association at large. Senator Lanius has initiated or sponsored all the legislation which has concerned the blind in Pennsylvania in the past seventeen years. His contribution to work in Pennsylvania cannot be estimated but the time will come when the history of work for the blind will write Senator Lanius in his true proportions.



W. A. ROYSTON, JR., Chairman  
Lions' Committee on Work for the Blind

As one of the hardest tasks facing workers for the blind has been the education of the public to a realization of the capabilities of the blind, so one of the greatest sources of inspiration to workers generally has been the acceptance by Lions' International of work for the blind as its major activity. This army of sixty thousand members, representing as it does so many diversified interests in each community, have brought, by their enthusiasm, cheer and inspiration to

workers for the blind in their efforts to educate the seeing public. The Lions of Pennsylvania have given generously of their time and means, not only in organizing new branches of the Association but in service to individual blind people, and in restoring sight to a number who might otherwise have spent their lives in darkness.

The ultimate ideal of the Association to carry service to the blind in every quarter of the State can be realized only, when the number of those added to the ranks of the blind each year shall have been reduced; when each and every blind person shall be within reach of the advantages and service now available in a fully functioning center and when the Commonwealth realizes its full measure of responsibility toward its blind citizens.

## Braille Alphabet

The following is an ink print representation of the punctographic system of reading and writing used by the blind in America and known as Braille, Grade One and a half. Each character is made up of one or more of a group of six dots in this position



|                |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
|----------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|-----|------|
| ALPHABET       | a             | b    | c            | d    | e           | f      | g            | h      | i   | j    |
| NUMERALS       | 1             | 2    | 3            | 4    | 5           | 6      | 7            | 8      | 9   | 0    |
| WHOLE-WORD     | a             | but  | can          | do   | every       | from   | go           | have   |     | just |
| Line 1         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| ALPHABET       | k             | l    | m            | n    | o           | p      | q            | r      | s   | t    |
| WHOLE-WORD     | knowledge     | like | more         | not  |             | people | quite        | rather | so  | that |
| Line 2         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| ALPHABET       | u             | v    | x            | y    | z           | ç      | é            | à      | è   | ù    |
| WHOLE-WORD     | us            | very | it           | you  | as          | and    | for          | of     | the | with |
| PART-WORD      |               |      |              |      |             | and    | for          | of     | the | with |
| Line 3         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| w, etc.        | â             | ê    | î            | ô    | û           | ë      | ï            | ü      | ö æ | w    |
| WHOLE-WORD     |               |      | shall        | this | which       |        |              | out    |     | will |
| PART-WORD      |               | gh   | sh           | th   | wh          | ed     | er           | ou     | ow  |      |
| Line 4         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| WHOLE-WORD     |               |      |              |      | en          |        |              |        | in  |      |
| PART-WORD      |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        | in  |      |
| PUNCTUATION    | ,             | :    | :            | .    |             | !      | ( )          | " ?    |     | "    |
| Line 5         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
|                | fraction line |      | numeral sign |      | ar          |        |              |        |     |      |
| PART-WORD      |               |      | ing          |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| HYPHEN, ETC.   | ì             | ò    |              |      |             | ä æ    |              |        | —   |      |
| Line 6         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
|                | accent        |      | italic sign  |      | letter sign |        | capital sign |        |     |      |
| Line 7         |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |
| COMPOUND SIGNS | —             | =    | *            | '    | '           | [      | ]            |        |     |      |
|                |               |      |              |      |             |        |              |        |     |      |

In the above cut the raised dot is indicated by a heavy black dot.



## PAMPHLET BINDERS

This is No. 1526

also carried in stock in the following sizes

|      | HIGH               | WIDE              | THICKNESS          |      | HIGH      | WIDE              | THICKNESS          |
|------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1523 | 8 inches           | 7 inches          | $\frac{1}{2}$ inch | 1529 | 12 inches | 10 inches         | $\frac{1}{2}$ inch |
| 1524 | 10 "               | 7 "               | "                  | 1530 | 12 "      | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | "                  |
| 1525 | 9 "                | 6 "               | "                  | 1532 | 13 "      | 10 "              | "                  |
| 1526 | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ "  | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | "                  | 1533 | 14 "      | 11 "              | "                  |
| 1527 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | "                  | 1534 | 16 "      | 12 "              | "                  |
| 1528 | 11 "               | 8 "               | "                  |      |           |                   |                    |

Other sizes made to order.

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